

Ordinance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2009 @ 6:30 PM

ITEM #1

Percy Street – One Way – 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, Monday – Friday, September-June, Easterly direction.

ITEM #2

Priority Development Ordinance, Chapter 43D

ITEM #3

Miscellaneous Traffic

ITEM #4

Minutes



CHICOPEE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

ACCEPTED 6-9-09

MEMBERS

James Tillotson, Chairman
George Moreau, Vice-Chairman
Donald Demers
John Vieau
Robert J. Zygarowski

MINUTES
May 12, 2009

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:30 PM in the Aldermanic Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Members Present: Tillotson, Moreau, Demers, Zygarowski

Members Absent: Vieau

Also Present: Councilor Croteau (At-Large), Councilor Krampits (Ward 5), Sergeant Michael Claus (Police Dept.), Stanley Kulig (Superintendent DPW), Kate Brown (Planning Director), Anna Wrzesinski (Mayor's Administrative Assistant), Paula Jenkins (Principal of St. Joan of Arc School), Pastor Fr. William Tourigny

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

ITEM #1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alderman of the City of Chicopee as follows: the CHAPTER 260, as amended on February 21, 1995, be further amended by **adding to** / ~~striking from~~ the following in schedule:

(Check Applicable)

- () I Parking Regulations
- () X Winter Parking Regulations
- (X) XI One-Way Streets
- () XIV Isolated Stop Signs and Signal Lights
- () XIII Right Turn on Red
- () II Bus Stops
- () Other

AS FOLLOWS: **PERCY STREET**

Easterly direction. Commencing at Grattan Street and ending at school property abutting 19 Percy Street. Between 8:00AM - 9:00AM, Monday - Friday, September - June

ONE WAY

PUBLIC INPUT:

Jeanne Gendron of 52 Percy Street stated she wants to begin with saying DPW does a horrible job plowing the street in the winter time. Secondly, she is against the one-way street. Stated she doesn't want to feel she is doing something wrong going down her own street and possibly getting a ticket for.

Albert Lamontagne of 18 Percy Street stated he owns a 2 family home across from Saint Joan's school yard and his drive way is constantly being blocked in. Stated in the morning his wife has a hard time getting out for 15 minutes and in the afternoon there are cars parked up and down the street making it congested and hard to drive for up to 45 minutes a day. He believes a one-way is not the answer and that the city should enforce the way the laws are now and to do something about the parking.

Robert George of 23 Trilby Ave (2nd FL) stated makings Percy Street a one-way would make the street a nightmare. The streets are packed as it is. When he tries to leave the street and go into the intersection it is impossible and he can't see a thing because of all the parked cars in the way. He also stated he can't leave his driveway until the buses "Red Flags" go down but the problem with that is, when the buses aren't there, cars are.

Kathryn Rivet of 24 Percy Street (1st FL) stated she has lived on Percy Street for 14 years now and the fact of the matter is that Percy Street is a 3 car through way. Yet, parents are parking on the odd side of the street. It is an old neighborhood so a lot of the parking for residents is road-side parking as it is. She stated there just clearly isn't enough room. Also, is there was an emergency (which there has been in the past) fire trucks, police cars and ambulances can not get down the street and they become backed up because of the parking. If Percy Street were to be made into a one-way street it would only give people reason to believe they are allowed to park on the odd side of the street. She stated a one-way will not fix this but something does need to be done about the parking. Her suggestions are to either 1. Hire more buses, 2. Stagger drop off/pick up times (according to grade), 3. Make one parking lot for playground and the other for parking and 4. Have employees park at Saint Pats School and shuttle to Saint Joan. All in all would just like people to obey the laws.

Christopher Barla of 24 Percy Street (3rd FL) stated he leaves for work in the morning very early but he does come home around the same time of traffic where sometimes he has to go and find something to do before he can even go home because it is so bad. He stated he moved out of Springfield for a few reasons, one being because of parking issues and now that he lives in Chicopee he faces the same problems. He stated he is against the one-way and that it will not fix the problem.

Thomas Rivet of 24 Percy Street (1st FL) stated he received a petition to make Percy Street a one-way and he didn't sign it because he is totally against it. He stated he wrote a letter to his neighbors and to the Councilors but only heard back from a few. When he saw last weeks City Council Meeting on TV he was very upset that this was an option.

He stated making Percy Street a one way is not going help the parking situation. He does however like having the school there but the problem with the school now is having a great number of children transferring from Saint Pats over to Saint Joan has caused congestion and no one was really prepared for it. He stated something needs to happen about this problem and the nasty looks to residents of the street including himself from the parents if quite unsettling.

Linda Poirier of 76 Percy Street stated she is not affected by the parking issue many of her neighbors are affected by however she would like to thank Mr. Demers about helping her with getting signs put back up for her after telephone phones were taken down and put back up. She stated she spoke with him many times and he was always quick to return a phone call and do whatever it was to help. She also stated although again she is not directly affected by the one-way she is completely against it.

Paula Jenkins (Principal of Saint Joan of Arc) stated she apologizes to residents if they feel she doesn't care because she truly does. She stated being a first year principal as the school she does not know if all of this congestion everyone is talking about is because of the added abundance of students from Saint Pats. She feels a one-way is a good idea for just an hour a day. She stated she wasn't aware of all the issues until this public meeting and her job is to keep all the children safe that is why she thinks the one way would be a good idea. It would make it easier, faster, safer and more convenient. She however did recognize that the signs for parking on streets are faded and would maybe like to see those either fixed or have some type of enforcement.

Pastor Fr. William Tourigny stated everyone as St. Rose want to be good neighbors and believes that parking is a problem but it is a problem all of the time because there is no parking almost anywhere. He stated there is no easy solution but is interested in taking part in helping in every way possible. As for snow removal, crossing Chapel Street is like crossing an ice-rink in the winter and since the widening of Grattan Street there is no room for snow build up from plows except for the sidewalks. He stated when this occurs he removes it on his own into the parking lot of the school. He also stated the best thing to do it all put our minds together and come up with the best solution.

Sergeant Michael Claus stated the Chief is sorry he could not attend the meeting but wanted him to forward the message that he is opposed to the one-way on Percy Street because it will only create a larger problem. Sergeant Michael Claus stated he agrees with Father Tourigny to all come together and figure out the best way to fix this.

Barbara Lemanski of 23 Carriage Road (Mother of Children that attend Saint Joan) stated she has tried to speak with residents to help out but never received any input on the situation. She stated there will always be problems with parking and will be no easy fix but she is in favor of the one-way. She also feels there needs to be adults or teachers in the parking lots of the school to take children when getting out of the car and crossing the street so that parents can leave faster instead of waiting for their children to get all the way to the entrance of the school.

Candace George of 23 Trilby Ave stated instead of having parents drop of children at school have them dropped off at Saint Pats and from there have a shuttle bus bring them to school as Saint Joan. This problem is not only a parking issue but also a safety concern at this point.

CLOSE PUBLIC INPUT

Councilor Tillotson stated it is hard to vote favorably when everyone from DPW, the Police Dept. and the public are opposed to it. He does however encourage Councilor Demers and people to work together to come up with a plan to resolve it in a manner amicable for everyone.

Councilor Croteau stated he understand this is not the solution after have public input and he will not vote favorably.

Councilor Demers stated just because he may not have called every resident on the street does not mean that he did not work on this issue. He stated he set up meetings with Pastor Fr. William Tourigny, Principal Paula Jenkins of Saint Joan of Arc and also the Police Department to speak about different options and this was what they came up with. However, after officials and the public say that this is not going to work out than he will try and thing of something else and is open to any suggestions.

Motion made to defeat the order

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 4-0 unfavorable

ITEM#2

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Code of the City of Chicopee for the Year 1991, as amended, be and hereby is further amended as follows:

Add to Chicopee City Code Chapter 275-6 - Site Plan Review

M. Priority Development

- (1) Purpose. The Chicopee City Council has adopted the provision of MGL Chapter 43D and established Priority Development Sites which are shown on a map entitles "City of Chicopee Priority Development. The purpose of these districts is to promote economic development as encouraged by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Smart Growth initiative.
- (2) Applicability. The provisions of this section apply only to those officially designated locations shown a map entitled "City of Chicopee Priority Development Sites Map". Unless specifically noted in this section, all provisions of Chicopee City Code Chapter 275 (Zoning) apply to projects located within a Priority Development Site.
- (3) Process, Review and Decisions. For Priority Development Site projects, all Special Permit, Variance, and/or Site Plan Review decisions by their respective approving authorities shall be issued within 190 calendar days after the filing of complete application with the appropriate body as specified in Chicopee City Code Chapter 275 (Zoning) Decisions may include approval, approval with conditions, or denial of the proposed project in accordance with Chicopee City Code Chapter 275 (Zoning) and MGL 43D.
- (4) Concurrent Filings. Concurrent filings are allowed for Priority Development Site projects that require permits from more than one approving authority.

Motion made to approve.

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 4-0 Favorable

ITEM #3 - Miscellaneous Traffic

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alderman of the City of Chicopee as follows: the CHAPTER 260, as amended on February 21, 1995, be further amended by adding to / ~~striking from~~ the following in schedule:

(Check Applicable)

- ☐ I Parking Regulations
- ☐ X Winter Parking Regulations
- ☐ XI One-Way Streets
- ☐ XIV Isolated Stop Signs and Signal Lights
- ☐ XIII Right Turn on Red
- ☐ II Bus Stops
- ☒ Other HANDICAP PARKING

AS FOLLOWS: **19 ALVORD AVENUE**

HANDICAP PARKING

Motion made by Councilor Moreau to approve.

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 4-0 favorable

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- ☒ Other HANDICAP PARKING

AS FOLLOWS: **31 GROCKI DRIVE**

HANDICAP PARKING

Motion made by Councilor Moreau to approve.

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 4-0 favorable

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AS FOLLOWS: **SHABAN DRIVE**

Easterly side. 200 ft. back from corner - facing McCarthy Avenue

PARKING PROHIITED HERE TO CORNER

Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski to approve.

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 4-0 favorable

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alderman of the City of Chicopee as follows: the CHAPTER 260, as amended on February 21, 1995, be further amended by adding to / ~~striking from~~ the following in schedule:

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AS FOLLOWS: **SHABAN DRIVE**

Westerly side. Between first driveway and corner

PARKING PROHIITED BETWEEN SIGNS

Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski to approve.

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 4-0 favorable

ITEM #4 Minutes - April 14, 2009

Motion made by Councilor Zygarowski to approve.

Motion passed. Committee Vote: 4-0 favorable

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.